

Bareilly-Pilibhit-Maunali line;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the above conversion work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[English]

#### **Vacuum Cleaners and VAX Computers in D.S.P.**

5176. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Durgapur Steel Plant purchased vacuum cleaner cost about Rs. 2 crores and vax computer cost about Rs. 30 crores which are not functioning by the side of the Sinter Plant after modernisation;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the technical audit has been done; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) had purchased a Vacuum Cleaners for approximately Rs. 85,000/- and a VAX computer for approximately Rs. 36 lakhs under the New Sinter Plant package of D.S.P. Modernisation.

The vacuum cleaners are functioning satisfactorily.

The VAX computer hardware has been installed and is functional. The software is being developed indigenously and is in advance stage of completion.

Vacuum Cleaners and VAX Computer being part of the New Sinter Plant package, technical audit would be taken up alongwith the audit of New Sinter Plant package.

[Translation]

#### **Construction of Pedestrian Subway**

5177. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the construction work of pedestrain subway near Ramghat road railway crossing in Aligarh District has started for which prior sanction has already been accorded;
- (b) if not, the reasons for delay; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government in order to expedite the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. No work of Pedestrian Subway has been approved at this site. However, a Road Over Bridge will be taken up after the State Govt. acquires land for approaches and starts work thereon.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of position given above.

[English]

#### **Outstanding Dues against Railways**

5178. SHRI RAM NAIK:

SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of outstanding dues from the Railway Administration as on March 31, 1997 on account of expenditure incurred on Railway Police by the Government of Maharashtra;

- (b) the reasons for non-payment so far; and
- (c) the time bound programme for the full repayment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The total outstanding with the Railway Administration as on March 31, 1997 on account of expenditure incurred on Railway Police by the Government of Maharashtra is Rs. 15.66 crores. This includes bills for Rs. 4.93 crores received in March '97.

(b) The outstanding dues are mainly on account of:-

- (i) Non-submission of audit certificate by the State Govt.
- (ii) Non-availability of funds.
- (iii) Unilateral creation of GRP posts by the State Govt. without approval of Railway administration.

(c) Railways have already been instructed to liquidate all clearly admissible claims of Maharashtra Govt. subject to availability of funds.

[Translation]

#### **Stoppages of Trains**

5179. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received memoranda about providing stoppages of Mahamaya Express at Vidisha Railway Station, Shipra Express Train and Jhelum Express Train at Ganj Basoda and Pathankot Express Train at Gulabganj Railway Stations;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the Government are likely to issue the orders in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Examined but not found commercially justified.

[English]

#### **Replacement of Railway Track and Old Bogies in Kerala**

5180. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to replace the very old railway tracks, old bogies of trains and also overhaul the bogies to improve railway in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 193 kms. of rail renewals has been sanctioned as on 1.4.1997. Out of this 115 kms. rail renewal has been targetted for completion during 1997-98. Similarly, 165 kms. of sleeper renewals have been sanctioned as on 1.4.97 out of which 111 kms. are targetted for completion in 1997-98. Passenger coaches provided on trains in Kerala region are relatively new and age-profile indicates that there are no overaged coaches in operation in this region. Further, during recent months, 160 new coaches have been inducted on trains operating in Kerala. The coaches are being given regular periodic overhaul in workshops according to prescribed norms. In addition, there is continued endeavour to bring about further improvement in the upkeep and maintenance of coaches by undertaking renovation of coaches and use of mobile jet cleaning machines at stations enroute.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Production of Mica**

5181. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reserves of mica are declining especially in the tribal areas of Gujarat state;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to establish mica based industries?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b)

The production of mica from the identified reserves is a continuous process and as such the resources are declining.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Office of Senior Superintendent in Gadchiroli**

5182. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open the office of Senior Superintendent of Posts in Gadchiroli District of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the names of districts in the country without the office of Senior Superintendent of Post;

(e) the reasons therefor;

(f) the policy of the Government in this regard; and

(g) the time by which the office of the Senior Superintendent of post is likely to be established in all the districts of Maharashtra and in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The opening of an office of Senior Superintendent of Post Offices is based on norms fixed in this behalf in accordance with Staff Inspection Unit formula which is not fulfilled in the case.

(d) It is not possible to furnish the information readily particularly as new districts keep on coming up. The information is, however, being compiled.

(e) Senior Superintendent of Post Offices/Superintendent of Post Offices head a Postal Division which is not considered as an essential adjunct to a revenue district since its establishment is dependent on norms based on total postal business in the district, which varies from district to district. In case of districts having heavier postal business, there may even be more than one Postal Division.

(f) There are well formulated specific norms for setting up of Postal Divisions and action is taken to create additional Divisions in light thereof as and when the same are found fulfilled in any specific case.

(g) It is not possible to indicate any specific deadline in this behalf in view of what has been stated in reply to parts (e) and (f) above.